

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1.-16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) An optical recording medium comprising a substrate, a light transmission layer, and a plurality of recording layers laminated via at least intermediate layers and disposed between the light transmission layer and the substrate, the recording layers constituted so that a laser beam is projected onto the plurality of recording layers via the light transmission layer, at least one of the recording layers other than a recording layer farthest from the light transmission layer among the plurality of recording layers containing at least one element M selected from a group consisting of Ni, Cu, Si, Ti, Ge, Zr, Nb, Mo, In, Sn, W, Pb, Bi, Zn and La, at least one element selected from a group consisting of S, O, C and N as a primary component, and at least one metal different from the element M and selected from a group consisting of Mg, Al and Ti,

wherein the at least one recording layers contains the at least one elements selected from ~~a~~ the group consisting of S, O, C and N and the at least one metal different from the element M and selected from the group consisting of Mg, Al and Ti in a form of a chemical compound thereof, and

wherein the at least one element selected from the group consisting of S, O, C and N and the at least one element M are combined upon being irradiated with the laser beam to form a crystal of a chemical compound thereof, thereby recording information in the at least one recording layers is constituted so that information is recorded therein upon being irradiated with the laser beam.

18. (Previously Presented) An optical recording medium in accordance with Claim 17, wherein all of the recording layers other than the farthest recording layer from the light transmission layer among the plurality of recording layers contain at least one element selected from the group consisting of Ni, Cu, Si, Ti, Ge, Zr, Nb, Mo, In, Sn, W, Pb, Bi, Zn and La and at least one element selected from the group consisting of S, O, C and N as a primary component, and at least one metal different from the element M and selected from the group consisting of Mg, Al and Ti,

wherein the at least one recording layers contains the elements selected from a group consisting of S, O, C and N and the at least one metal different from the element M and selected from the group consisting of Mg, Al and Ti in a form of a compound thereof, and

wherein the at least one recording layers is constituted so that information is recorded therein upon being irradiated with the laser beam.

19. (Previously Presented) An optical recording medium in accordance with Claim 18, wherein all of the recording layers other than the farthest recording layer from the light transmission layer are formed in such a manner that the recording layers closer to the light transmission layer are thinner.

20. (Previously Presented) An optical recording medium in accordance with Claim 17, wherein the recording layer containing at least one element selected from a group consisting of Ni, Cu, Si, Ti, Ge, Zr, Nb, Mo, In, Sn, W, Pb, Bi, Zn and La and at least one element selected from a group consisting of S, O, C and N as a primary component, and at least one metal different from the element M and selected from a group consisting of Mg, Al and Ti is formed by a vapor growth process using a target containing at least one element selected from a group consisting of Ni, Cu, Si, Ti, Ge, Zr, Nb, Mo, In, Sn, W, Pb, Bi, Zn and La and at least one element selected from a group consisting of S, O, C and N as a primary component and a target containing at least one metal selected from a group consisting of Mg, Al and Ti as a primary component.

21. (Previously Presented) An optical recording medium in accordance with Claim 18, wherein the recording layer containing at least one element selected from a group consisting of Ni, Cu, Si, Ti, Ge, Zr, Nb, Mo, In, Sn, W, Pb, Bi, Zn and La and at least one element selected from a group consisting of S, O, C and N as a primary component, and at least one metal different from the element M and selected from a group consisting of Mg, Al and Ti is formed by a vapor growth process using a target containing at least one element selected from a group consisting of Ni, Cu, Si, Ti, Ge, Zr, Nb, Mo, In, Sn, W, Pb, Bi, Zn and La and at least one element selected from a group consisting of S, O, C and N as a primary component and a target containing at least one metal selected from a group consisting of Mg, Al and Ti as a primary component.

22. (Previously Presented) An optical recording medium in accordance with Claim 19, wherein the recording layer containing at least one element selected from a group consisting of Ni, Cu, Si, Ti, Ge, Zr, Nb, Mo, In, Sn, W, Pb, Bi, Zn and La and at least one element selected from a group consisting of S, O, C and N as a primary component, and at least one metal different from the element M and selected from a group consisting of Mg, Al and Ti is formed by a vapor growth process using a target containing at least one element selected from a group consisting of Ni, Cu, Si, Ti, Ge, Zr, Nb, Mo, In, Sn, W, Pb, Bi, Zn and La and at least one element selected from a group consisting of S, O, C and N as a primary component and a target containing at least one metal selected from a group consisting of Mg, Al and Ti as a primary component.

23. (Previously Presented) An optical recording medium in accordance with Claim 20, wherein the recording layer containing at least one element selected from a group consisting of Ni, Cu, Si, Ti, Ge, Zr, Nb, Mo, In, Sn, W, Pb, Bi, Zn and La and at least one element selected from a group consisting of S, O, C and N as a primary component, and at least one metal different from the element M and selected from a group consisting of Mg, Al and Ti is formed by a vapor growth process using a target containing a mixture of ZnS and SiO<sub>2</sub> or a

mixture of  $\text{La}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{SiO}_2$  and  $\text{Si}_3\text{N}_4$  as a primary component and a target containing at least one metal selected from a group consisting of Mg, Al and Ti as a primary component.

24. (Previously Presented) An optical recording medium in accordance with Claim 21, wherein the recording layer containing at least one element selected from a group consisting of Ni, Cu, Si, Ti, Ge, Zr, Nb, Mo, In, Sn, W, Pb, Bi, Zn and La and at least one element selected from a group consisting of S, O, C and N as a primary component, and at least one metal different from the element M and selected from a group consisting of Mg, Al and Ti is formed by a vapor growth process using a target containing a mixture of ZnS and  $\text{SiO}_2$  or a mixture of  $\text{La}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{SiO}_2$  and  $\text{Si}_3\text{N}_4$  as a primary component and a target containing at least one metal selected from a group consisting of Mg, Al and Ti as a primary component.

25. (Previously Presented) An optical recording medium in accordance with Claim 22, wherein the recording layer containing at least one element selected from a group consisting of Ni, Cu, Si, Ti, Ge, Zr, Nb, Mo, In, Sn, W, Pb, Bi, Zn and La and at least one element selected from a group consisting of S, O, C and N as a primary component, and at least one metal different from the element M and selected from a group consisting of Mg, Al and Ti is formed by a vapor growth process using a target containing a mixture of ZnS and  $\text{SiO}_2$  or a mixture of  $\text{La}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{SiO}_2$  and  $\text{Si}_3\text{N}_4$  as a primary component and a target containing at least one metal selected from a group consisting of Mg, Al and Ti as a primary component.

26. (Original) An optical recording medium in accordance with Claim 19, which comprises a first recording layer, a second recording layer and a third recording layer on the substrate in this order and the first recording layer, the second recording layer and the third recording layer are formed so that the second recording layer has a thickness of 15 nm to 50 nm and that a ratio of the thickness of the third recording layer to the thickness of the second recording layer is 0.40 to 0.70.

27. (Original) An optical recording medium in accordance with Claim 19, which comprises a first recording layer, a second recording layer, a third recording layer and a fourth recording layer on the substrate in this order and the first recording layer, the second recording layer, the third recording layer and the fourth recording layer are formed so that the second recording layer has a thickness of 20 nm to 50 nm, that a ratio of the thickness of the third recording layer to the thickness of the second recording layer is 0.48 to 0.93 and that a ratio of the thickness of the fourth recording layer to that of the second recording layer is 0.39 to 0.70.

28. (Canceled)

29. (Original) An optical recording medium in accordance with Claim 17, wherein the recording layer farthest from a light incidence plane among the plurality of recording layers includes a first recording film containing Cu as a primary component and a second recording film containing Si as a primary component.

30. (Canceled)

31. (Original) An optical recording medium in accordance with Claim 17, wherein the plurality of recording layers are constituted so that data can be recorded therein and data can be reproduced therefrom using a laser beam having a wavelength of 380 nm to 450 nm.